

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The claims have been amended to replace "adding" with "embedding" consistent with the specification.

Claims 1-19 were examined.

Claims 10-15 have been amended responsive to the Section 101 non-statutory subject matter rejection.

Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore solicited. However, should the Examiner believe the claims still do not properly recite statutory subject matter, applicants would appreciate the Examiner's suggestion as to how the claims could be amended so as to overcome the Section 101 rejection. The Examiner's assistance is appreciated.

There are no other formal matters outstanding.

Claims 1-19 were rejected as anticipated by MATSUMOTO et al. 6,320,829.

The claims have been amended to more particularly recite the permission control information concerning the predetermined regions, i.e., geographical regions of the world and countries.

Reference is made to the specification beginning with the paragraph spanning pages 21-22. There it is disclosed (emphasis added) that in the invention, "one piece of the sector information ST is constituted of, from the head, an

identification information ID including a sector information number for identifying, in the video information VD, As the copy control information IF, copy control information is stored which indicates that recording information recorded as the image information DA can be freely duplicated, copy and recording are permitted only one time, or the copy and recording are not permitted at all, for each of regions obtained by dividing the world into eight as will be described later.

The invention provides that the image information DA in each piece of the sector information ST includes an information table TB corresponding to the read-only DVD 1 describing the disc region information.

As shown in FIG. 2(A), the first information table TB1 includes, from the first byte, header information HD (1 byte) indicating that the subsequent information is included in the first information table TB1, first copy control information CCI1 (1 byte) which is copy control information about four regions of the eight divided regions of the world, second copy control information CCI2 (1 byte) which is copy control information about the other four regions of the eight regions, reproducible region information PA (1 byte) which serves as disc region information indicating countries or regions where reproduction is permitted for recording information recorded in the DVD 1, auxiliary information R (35 bytes) including no significant information, and error correction information ECC (17 bytes) used for

correcting an error when the first information table TB1 is detected during reproduction of the image information DA. See specification page 23, the second full paragraph.

See the paragraph spanning pages 62-63: "To be specific, for example, of the copy control information CCI in the information table TB' included in the inputted digital output signal Sd, when the contents of the copy control information CCI corresponding to a country or region where the recorder RC is installed permit the corresponding recording information to be recorded on the DVD 100 only once in the region, of the copy control information CCI in the information table TB' inserted by the watermark insertion part 47, as the copy control information CCI corresponding to the country or region where the recorder RC is installed, copy prohibition information is inserted which indicates that copy and recording are prohibited thereafter."

New claim 20 recites wherein each of the predetermined geographical regions of the world corresponds to a different country.

New claim 21 recites wherein each of the predetermined regions of the world is a different country.

MATSUMOTO makes no disclosure or suggestions concerning copy control information for restricting copying based on predetermined geographical regions of the world, or for different countries.

There being no teachings in this regard, the claims are both novel and non-obvious.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

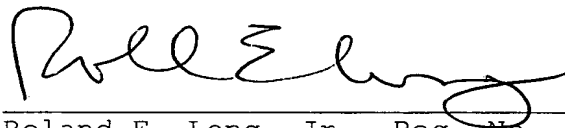
Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

As noted above, should there be any outstanding formal matters, it is requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted so that these can be resolved.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REL/lrs